

REMARKS

Upon entry of this Amendment, claim 4 will be pending and claims 2-3 and 5-18 are allowed. Reconsideration of the outstanding rejections is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Preliminarily, Applicants have noted that the reference numbered "YR" was not initialed on the copy of Form PTO 1449, dated August 11, 1998, that was enclosed with the Office Action mailed on October 1, 1999. Applicants assume this is a clerical error and kindly request confirmation that the reference has been considered by the Examiner.

Claims 1 and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being obvious over EP 0145378 to Nagasaki ("Nagasaki").

Applicants note that claim 1 has been cancelled and that claim 4 as amended is dependent on allowed claims 2 and 5. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that all present claims are clearly distinguished over the art herein of record and that the application is in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Since all rejections have been addressed and overcome, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is courteously solicited. If any questions remain, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned attorney to expedite the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,
PILLSBURY MADISON & SUTRO LLP

By 

Paul L. Sharer
Reg. No. 36,004
Tel No.: (202) 861-3649
Fax No.: (202) 822-0944

PLS/wdw
1100 New York Avenue, N.W.
Ninth Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005-3918
(202) 861-3000